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Time garbles its Swahili

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TIME GARBLES
ITS SWAHILI

MISSOULA--

When it comes to the language of Swahili, Time magazine might receive a grade other than "A".

In its July 13 issue on page 28 Time quotes Martha Mitchell, wife of U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell, as delivering an oath of office in "near-faultless" Swahili: "Je unaaba kwa kweli kwamba ueaziunga..."

According to F. Matanda Minja, a senior majoring in political science at the University of Montana, rather than being "near faultless," Time's Swahili is gibberish.

Minja, a student from Tanzania, East Africa, said that actually the words "Do you solemnly swear..." are rendered in Swahili as "Unaapa kwa kweli kwamba unaziunga..."

According to Minja, Newsweek magazine, on page 57 in its July 13 issue, did have the correct Swahili. This may lead one to believe that Time and not Mrs. Mitchell needs the language refresher course.

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